

## Statewide Population Health Call – August 2016

### BEPHI – Epidemiology

Sheri Tubach

In Kansas we have identified 11 cases of Zika virus infection among non-pregnant adults. These numbers are current as of August 23, 2016. Updated numbers are provided on the KDHE Arboviral surveillance website weekly. [http://www.kdheks.gov/epi/arboviral\\_disease.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/epi/arboviral_disease.htm)

From January 01, 2015 – August 17, 2016 as reported to the CDC Arboviral Disease Branch

In the United States and District of Columbia

Locally acquired mosquito-borne cases reported: 14

Travel-associated cases reported: 2,245

Laboratory acquired cases reported: 1

Total: 2,260

Sexually transmitted: 22

Guillain-Barré syndrome: 7 cases

Pregnant women with Zika virus infection are being monitored through the US pregnancy registry to monitor for birth defects associated with infection. States are submitting data to this registry weekly.

As of August 11, 2016 there have been 529 pregnant women with lab evidence of Zika virus infection in the US states and the District of Columbia.

Pregnancy outcomes include 16 live born infants and 5 pregnancy losses with an identified birth defect which may include microcephaly, calcium deposits in the brain indicating possible brain damage, excess fluid in the brain cavities and surrounding the brain, absent or poorly formed brain structures, abnormal eye development, or other problems resulting from damage to the brain that affects nerves, muscles and bones, such as clubfoot or inflexible joints, and confirmed hearing loss.

As of August 22, 2016, testing for Zika virus infection is available through the Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories (KHEL). KHEL will test approved patients for Zika virus using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Trioplex rRT-PCR test and serology testing (using the CDC Zika IgM MAC-ELISA). For information on testing or to obtain approval call the KDHE's epidemiology hotline (877-427-7317).

KDHE will only approve specimens from patients who meet the clinical criteria for Zika virus infection, have an epidemiologic risk factor, and are within an appropriate timeframe for specimen collection. Asymptomatic pregnant women with a risk factor will also be evaluated for testing.

Next, I would like to provide a brief update on the investigation by the Florida Department of Health. There have been 14 locally acquired cases in Miami-Dade County specifically in the Wynwood Area and Miami Beach area. KDHE epidemiologists are currently monitoring the situation in Florida to ensure that testing is approved for those that travelled to these areas.

KDHE is in the process of identifying additional specimen collection sites throughout the state to streamline the collection and testing processes. Additional specimen collections sites are needed. For those facilities that would like to be a specimen collection site, please call our epidemiology hotline for more information. Once again that number is 877-427-7317.

My last update is that KDHE is going to be holding a Zika virus Townhall meeting on October 3 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Topeka. There will be limited seating available for those that would like to attend in person. Others will be able to attend virtually. Agenda items include updates about the KDHE response, a situation update on Zika virus and transmission, Mosquito surveillance and our plan for next year, laboratory testing pregnancy registry, birth defects surveillance, and education and awareness about Zika virus including remediation of waste tires. We will be sending out an invitation soon.

**Bureau of Health Promotion**  
Ginger Park

Registration will open at the end of the week for the 2016 Evidence-Based Public Health Course, which will be held November 14 - 16 in Topeka. The topics, techniques and tools provided will enhance understanding of the principles of health assessment, improvement planning and evaluation. Watch your inbox for registration details.

**Community Health Systems**  
Michael Bear

In the past the KDHE Preparedness Staff have been assigned to support a specific region of the state. While this allowed for the relationship building I prefer, it requires each member of the staff to maintain knowledge outside of their specialty area and requires more extensive travel. Given our current budget limitations on travel and the need for staff to focus on specific projects we will no longer use a regional support model. If you have a specific question on a program area or feel that a member of the KDHE program staff needs to participate in a meeting in your region please contact me. I will work with you to determine the appropriate staff member to support your meeting and whether the meeting needs to be supported in person or if we can participate via conference call or a virtual meeting solution such as Go-To-Meeting. Please use the following link for a listing of staff, program areas, and contact information:  
<http://www.kdheks.gov/cphp/staff.htm>.

On a related note Edward Bell has joined the Preparedness team as our Compliance Coordinator. Edward will be developing and implementing

a program that will allow us to more effectively demonstrate the steps we and our partners are taking to meet programmatic goals and benchmarks. I know you will make Edward feel as welcome as you have made me feel over the last month and a half.

For those of you who haven't heard, Lisa Williams will no longer be with the Preparedness team. Lisa was offered and accepted a position within KDHE in a new program that is being established, Pregnancy Risk Assessment and Monitoring System (PRAMS). This is a CDC funded program that has been established in other states but is just getting off the ground in Kansas. While we're going to miss Lisa and everything she does for the Preparedness program, we wish her nothing but the best of luck on this next step in her career with KDHE.

Kansas has proclaimed September as Preparedness Month and October is unofficially Zombie Preparedness Month. As such, Fred the Preparedness Dog will be making tracks around Kansas to promote family and community preparedness efforts. Fred will be at:

- Sept. 10 – Emergency Services Showcase, Topeka Expocentre, 1-4 PM
- Sept. 12 – Kansas State Fair Preparedness Day, Hutchinson, all day
- Sept. 13 – First Responders Appreciation Breakfast, St. Catherine's Hospital Garden City, 7-8:30 AM
- Sept. 14 – Garden City schools
- Sept. 15 – Elkhart and Rolla schools
- Sept. 15 – Stevens County Health Department Community Preparedness training, Hugoton, 7-8 PM
- Sept. 16 – Hugoton schools
- Sept. 17 – Victory Electric Health Fair, Western State Bank Expo Center, Dodge City, 8-11 AM
- Oct. 1 – NWS Topeka Open House, Topeka, 10-3 PM
- Oct. 4-5 – Kingman County schools
- Oct. 15 – Caney Zombie Walk, Caney City Park, 8-3 PM

You can always follow Fred's work and travels on his Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FredThePreparednessDogKdhe/> and on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/FredPrepDog>. You can also contact Fred at [fredpreparedness@kdheks.gov](mailto:fredpreparedness@kdheks.gov) or 785-291-3065.

Cristi Cain

#### KDHE

- a. New public health specialist Katie Mahuron joined the Local Public Health team.
- b. Kansas Public Health Training Fellowship (Core Public Health) — This is an eight month long training with in-person as well as virtual sessions. The Kansas Statewide Farmworker Program is covering the registration fee for up to 20 Fellowship participants.

Registration information has been sent out—deadline 8/25. Contact Cristi if you need more information at [ccain@kdheks.gov](mailto:ccain@kdheks.gov).

- c. The committee is working on planning the 2017 Governor's Public Health Conference in Manhattan. Please send topic ideas to Cristi at [ccain@kdheks.gov](mailto:ccain@kdheks.gov).

Catalyst/Grid 120

- d. Looking for volunteers to test new version of Catalyst which is coming out 1/6/17 and participate in focus groups with developers—testing will start in October. Please contact Cristi at [ccain@kdheks.gov](mailto:ccain@kdheks.gov) or 785-296-6549 if you or a staff member is interested.

Katie Mahuron

I am originally from Indiana and am a RN with a BSN from Indiana University. I completed my senior practicum and thesis at Marion County Health Department in Indianapolis, IN. I recently completed a year of AmeriCorps VISTA service at WSU's Center for Public Health Initiatives, and am excited to be a part of the Local Public Health Program team and look forward to working with the local health departments throughout Kansas. I can be reached at [kmahuron@kdheks.gov](mailto:kmahuron@kdheks.gov) or 785-296-3641.

**KS-TRAIN**  
Deb Nickels

- a. **Fall 2016 Regional Public Health Meetings:** The 2016 regional public health meetings are designed to connect local health departments (LHD) with programs and best practices that will benefit the work you do within your communities. This agenda includes a mix of environmental health, a Medicaid resource and community health worker information. The Ombudsman Program is a new Medicaid resource housed at Wichita State University (WSU)-Community Engagement Institute that you will find useful and the Farmworker Program is a nationally recognized award winning program with one of the best models for community health workers in the State of Kansas. Register through KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, Course ID# 1064195. The agenda includes the following: Everything You Didn't Want to Know about Radon Gas Exposure but Should in 20 Minutes, Isabell Busenitz, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and Brian Hanson, Kansas Radon Coordinator, Kansas State University; Medicaid Ombudsman Program and Self Help Network of Kansas, Percy Turner, WSU Community Engagement Institute and the Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program, Regional Case Managers. The dates and locations for the final fall meetings are:
- NC Region, Beloit, August 31
  - NE Region, Topeka, September 13
  - If you have ideas for regional meeting topics please contact Teri Caudle at [tcaudle@kdheks.gov](mailto:tcaudle@kdheks.gov)
- b. **Fundamentals of Kansas Public Health Modules 1 – 4** are now available through KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>. The [Kansas Public Health Workforce Development Coordinating Council](#)

[\(Council\)](#) identified through its strategic planning process in 2014 and the Kansas Public Health Workforce Assessment in 2015 that there is a gap in the fundamental knowledge of the Public Health Core Functions, the 10 Essential Services and the relationship/linkages to the public health system in Kansas. Module 1 was developed through a Kansas public health workforce collaboration to focus on the identified gaps, and Modules 2- 4, were designed and developed by the Wichita State University's Community Engagement Institute, with the focus on the Kansas Association of Local Health Department's New Director Orientation guide. Support for all four modules was funded by the Kansas Health Foundation Public Health Practice Program.

- [Module #1: An Overview of the Kansas System Course, Course ID# 1056214](#), provides a general overview of the Kansas public health system for the current, new and future public health workforce.
- [Module #2: Governance and Policy, Course ID# 1063682](#), focuses on the on the governmental public health infrastructure as it relates to local health departments, particularly in Kansas, and the role local health departments play in making our lives safe and healthier.
- [Module #3: Financial Management and Preparedness, Course ID# 1063773](#), discusses the endeavors of local health departments to fulfill a mission to assure the health of the public, with expectations to be good stewards of public investments. Managing and understanding the budget and budget process as a critical role for the local health department director.
- [Module #4: Workforce Development, Course ID# 1063774](#), explains workforce development in public health to improve health outcomes such as, healthier people and environments, by enhancing the training, skills, and performance of public health workers. Local health departments are public health agencies that are part of a government entity but, in many ways, also operate like any business. Effective public health practice requires a well prepared workforce. This includes hiring productive staff who value customer satisfaction, evaluating staff effectiveness, and planning to properly train staff through continuing education.

#### **Preparedness Training Information on KS-TRAIN:**

- a. Public Health Ebola Risk Communications Training Scheduled:** In order to ensure the readiness and response capability of state, local and territorial public health agencies to public health emergency, crisis and disaster situations the **Preparedness Program at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is collaborating with** the Public Policy and Management Center (PPMC) at Wichita State University to provide crisis

communication training. [KDHE-BCHS: Ebola Risk Communications Training, Course ID# 1065100](#) is for the Local Health Department Public Information Officers and applicable KDHE staff participating in the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Preparedness Ebola Supplemental Grant. This full day training will be held at six locations around the state before June 30, 2017. See the course details page on [KS-TRAIN](#) for more information including dates and times.

- b. The Public Policy and Management Center (PPMC) was established in 1965 as a center for public service and has more than 50 years of experience working directly with state and local government and nonprofit organizations in the areas of applied research, technical assistance, facilitation, and professional development. The PPMC is part of the Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs (HWS) with a mission "to advance excellence in public affairs through integrated teaching, research, and service". If you have questions about the training please contact Elisa Nehrbass at [enehrbass@kdheks.gov](mailto:enehrbass@kdheks.gov) or call 785-296-1882.
- c. **The regional preparedness Healthcare Coalition meetings** are posted to KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org> for registration. If you do not see your regional meeting on the TRAIN calendar please contact the regional coordinator for the next meeting date.
  - SEKS Healthcare Coalition Meeting, Course ID #1059500 (August 23, Chanute)
  - NEKS Healthcare Coalition Meeting, Course ID #1059234 (TBA, Topeka)
  - SWKS Hospital Emergency Response Team HPP Healthcare Coalition, Course ID #1059224 (TBA, Garden City)
  - NWKS Healthcare Coalition Meeting, Course ID #1064649 (November 1, Hays)
  - NCKS Healthcare Coalition Meeting, Course ID #1059634 (September 16, Salina)
  - Kansas Metro Regional Healthcare Coalition Meeting, Course ID #1059303 (TBA)
  - SCKS Health Care Coalition Meeting, Course ID #1064922 (September 21, Wichita)
- d. Just a reminder to check the Calendar on KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org> for live preparedness training. If you have new staff or partners who require ICS training the Kansas Division of Emergency Management will be posting training sessions for the **G300**, Course ID# 1060574 and **G400**, Course ID# 1060577 through the end of the year.

- e. The **KDHE: The Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) - Kansas CHEMPACK** is live on KS-TRAIN, Course ID #1060191. By the end of this course you will be able to successfully:
- Define the CHEMPACK Program
  - List the six types of chemical warfare agents
  - Identify the signs and symptoms of mild, moderate and severe nerve agent poisoning
  - Identify the five products in the CHEMPACK container
  - Explain what each product in the container is used for
  - Identify five of the responsibilities of a CHEMPACK cache location
- f. The 2016 version of the **Packaging and Shipping Division 6.2 Materials: What the Laboratorian Should Know, Course ID #1062513** is available on KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>. In order to be certified, or recertified, to ship laboratory materials you must complete training on the hazardous materials regulations as well as some facility specific training. This on-line course uses a problem solving approach to provide training on infectious Division 6.2 Materials as specified in the Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations. The content includes some general security training as well as some guidance on facility specific training. Access to resource documents and a number of job aids will not only enhance your learning experience but also provide useful resources for your laboratory. This course is designed specifically for those who participate in any phase of shipping laboratory specimens within the United States.
- g. The course, **KHEL: Preparing Clinical Specimens Related to Chemical or Biological Exposure Using Evidence Control Measures (CESSL), Course ID #1050287**, is an intermediate-level 45 minute training overview of regulations and procedures associated with evidentiary control measures taken when shipping clinical specimens to the Kansas Department of Health and Environmental Laboratories after a known or unknown chemical exposure even has occurred. This course is offered to ensure all laboratory staff across Kansas receive the full training needed to fully support their responsibilities as sentinel laboratory staff members. PH Preparedness Capabilities: #12 and #14.

If you have staff who have completed the Division 6.2 Infectious Materials course via another venue, other than the CDC online course on KS-TRAIN, they should contact Sara Hoffman at the Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories. Sara will enroll your employee into the CESSL course, #1050287. You can reach her at [shoffman@kdheks.gov](mailto:shoffman@kdheks.gov) or 785-291-3162.

TRAIN questions can be directed to [kstrain@kdheks.gov](mailto:kstrain@kdheks.gov) or

[dnickels@kdheks.gov](mailto:dnickels@kdheks.gov).

**Communications Update**  
Cassie Sparks

September is Preparedness month. Communications, along with Fred, will be doing messaging around that.

Zika communications is ongoing and will be increasing. We will make sure to inform you about what those efforts will entail when we have more information.

I wanted to make note that weekly counts of Zika Virus and West Nile Virus cases are posted online at:

[http://www.kdheks.gov/epi/arboviral\\_disease.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/epi/arboviral_disease.htm) - these are listed by the area of residence.

Safe Kids Kansas along with KDOT and a couple other partners just put out a press release about a seat belt campaign that will take place over Labor Day called "Bucks for Buckles"